



# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.*



*Online Bulletin*

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**August 25, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.**

Service offered both in-person and online

**Welcome!** Sunday Services are offered each week at 10:15am. You have the option of attending in-person or online at: [www.StPaulsVentura.org/live](http://www.StPaulsVentura.org/live), [www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura](http://www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura), [www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura](http://www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura).

**Safety Protocols** –Because some among us are at higher risk and continue to want some additional distance, we've reserved several pews in the front on the chapel side of the sanctuary for those with masks. Masks are optional on the Loma Vista side. We hope this will make it possible for everyone to find a place in the church where they can feel safe and comfortable. Thank you for your understanding. You are a shining example of what LOVE looks like.

Whether this is your first visit, or you have been a member for years, we're glad you're here! This bulletin is designed to guide you through the service. We invite you to sing, pray and read along with us through the service. The words in bold are the ones we'll all say together. The best way to keep up with everything that's going on at St. Paul's is to subscribe to our Email Newsletter. If you don't receive it and would like to be added to the list, please come see us at the Welcome Table or contact the office.

By tradition, The Episcopal Church offers Holy Communion to all baptized persons. If you are not baptized, but wish to receive, we invite you to participate fully in the opening part of the service, called the Ministry of the Word, hearing God's word and reflecting on your life, enabling you to come to the table for communion, if you so choose, with a heart prepared to receive. We hope that if you feel touched by the word and sacrament and wish to learn more about the life-giving power of the Spirit of the Risen Christ, you will contact the church office to inquire about participating in Holy Baptism.

Our Sunday School program (for children ages 2 years-grade 5) begins at 10am. Children are invited to join Miss Ana, Miss Cassidy and Miss Nairi to hear a Bible story and enjoy fun and engaging activities related to that story. Children return to the church to join their families for Eucharist.

Once again, welcome! We're glad that you're worshipping with us. Let us know if you have any questions, prayer requests or need the services of a priest. We are always glad to hear from you. Meanwhile, know that you are in our prayers. We wish you all a very safe and blessed week.

	<p><i>The angels are dancing again...</i></p> <p><b>Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!</b></p> <p>As things heat up, the beams in our beautiful church ceiling expand and creak. No worries! It's just part of this wonderful building's charm. For years, some of our members have said to each other, "Listen, the angels are dancing on the roof again!"</p>
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**Today's flowers are given through the generosity of your pledge.**

*If you'd like to arrange for flowers given in memory or thanksgiving, please contact the church office. Thank you!*

## Liturgy of the Word

### Prelude

Perfect Love  
Pastorale on When Love is Found

*arr. Robert Speed*  
*arr. Allan Mahnke*

We welcome the Rev. Canon Jerry Kahler as our Guest Preacher and Celebrant today as we celebrate the 55th Anniversary of his Ordination. Fr Kahler was Rector of Saint Paul's from 1998-2010. Please join us for a special Coffee Hour honoring Fr. Kahler following the service.

*Please stand as you are able at the sound of the bell.*

### Processional

**O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising**

**Hymn 590**

*Cantor: Daniel Smithson*

### Opening Salutation

*Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.  
**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**

**Praise our great and gracious Lord**

**Hymnal 393**

### **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the reading of scripture.*

*As Episcopalians, our custom is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Holy Scripture. You are invited to do so right here in your bulletin.*

### **First Reading**

Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18

A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel:

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 34:15-22**

The response appointed for this morning is a portion of Psalm 34. We will read it verse by verse. I will read the odd-numbered verses and the congregation is asked to read the even-numbered verses.

15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.

**16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.**

17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.

**18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.

**20 He will keep safe all his bones;  
not one of them shall be broken.**

21 Evil shall slay the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,  
and none will be punished who trust in him.**

## Second Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

*Reader*        The word of the Lord.

***People***        **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn                    Lord, make us servants of your peace, v. 1-3**

**Hymn 593**

*Please stand as you are able to sing.*

**Holy Gospel**

John 6:56-69

*Please remain standing as you are able and face the Gospel.*

*Celebrant*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People***        **Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the

spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Jerry Kahler

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## Nicene Creed

*BCP p. 358*

*All stand as able and together say*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic<sup>1</sup> and apostolic<sup>2</sup> Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *(Silence)*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

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<sup>1</sup> universal; all embracing    <sup>2</sup> relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sean our Presiding Bishop-elect and John, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *(Silence)*  
*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *(Silence)*  
*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *(Silence)*  
*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *(Silence may be kept.)*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*All stand as they are able.*

*Celebrant*    The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

## Announcements

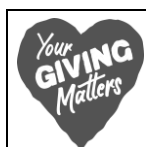
*Please be seated.*

## Blessings for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

# *Liturgy of the Table* *Holy Communion*

## Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.



*Thank you for your donation, and for your pledge.  
Your generosity is appreciated!  
We look forward to doing great things in the name of Christ  
with whatever you are able to give.*

## Offertory

Andante

*W. A. Mozart*

## Presentation Hymn

**Father, we thank thee who hast planted**

**Hymnal 302**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages, you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time, you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore, we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**Hymnal S127**

*The service music can be found in the front of the hymnal*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*You are invited to stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.  
**AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Spiritual Communion

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

**Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not all together in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.**

## The Invitation

This is the Banquet of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little,  
you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,  
you who have tried to follow, and you who fear you have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him in this holy way.

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*For in-person worshippers: Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at communion. Our custom is to stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive the Eucharist. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.*

***The Common Cup will be offered on the right side of the altar rail.  
Intinction (dipping) will be offered on the left (Loma Vista) side.***

*Regardless of which side you are sitting on, when you come forward, please go to whichever side is offering the wine in the way you prefer to receive it.*

*Those receiving by intinction are asked to help themselves to a small paper cup.*

*Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer.*

***You may also choose to return to your seat without receiving the wine.***

*Be assured that it is a sufficient experience of communion.*

***If you'd like to come forward but would prefer not to receive,  
please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer you a blessing.***

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*Suggestion: Before or after Communion, see the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pp. 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there. Online worshippers can find it at [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org)*

## Communion Music

Improvisation on the day's hymns

*Felix Eisenhauer*

### All who hunger gather gladly

- 1 All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.



- 3 All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.  
 Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been fed.  
 Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.  
 Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

**Post Communion Prayer:**

*Please stand or kneel as you prefer.*

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*When the Eucharist is being taken out to those who are sick or shut-in, we will pray together.*

**In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah; and of Jesus Christ born of our Sister Mary; and of the Holy Spirit who broods over creation as a Mother over her children; be upon you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

**Recessional Hymn**

**Alleluia, sing to Jesus**

**Hymnal 460**

*Please stand as you are able and turn to face the cross as it passes by.*

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Joyful, Joyful

*L. V. Beethoven  
 arr. Humphrey Turner*

**Acknowledgements and Copyright Information**

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*Check out next Sunday's readings at [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)*

***Please join us in thanking those serving this week:***

<b>Server:</b>	Drew Darby & Roger Crow	<b>Lectors:</b>	Ralph Armstrong & Bridget Wareham
<b>Chalice:</b>	Kay Armstrong	<b>Ushers:</b>	Steve & Tegan Jones
<b>Acolytes:</b>		<b>Cantor:</b>	Daniel Smithson
<b>Announcements:</b>	Pam Klebaum		
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Pam Klebaum & Louise Bretz	<b>Flower Guild:</b>	Lisa Cross
<b>Video Production:</b>	Woody Bretz	<b>Welcome Greeter:</b>	Pat Malchak
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	The Vestry	<b>Lock-up Team:</b>	Greg Jackson

## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of August 25, 2024***

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury	Our Clergy: Susan Bek, Dick Swanson, Greg Larkin, Vicki Mouradian
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop-Elect	President Joseph Biden, Congress, Federal Courts
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan	Governor Gavin Newsom, Legislature, State Courts

### ***HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:***

Bert, Rev. Susan, Barbara, Mary, Kay, Ralph, Kathy, Sam, Ernie, all refugees, first responders, and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

### ***THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:***

Penny, Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Carol, Rachel, Dave, Kim, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, Jeanice, Kevin, Susan, Debbie, Carol, Vivian, Ulrich, Christian, Ron and Pam.

### ***IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:***

Drew Darby, his wife Anna, and their family.

### ***FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:***

- + The spiritual, physical and moral development of our children and youth; the children, youth, and adult leaders of our Sunday School, Youth Group, Boy Scout Troop 179, La Famiglia Preschool, KinderMusik, Pulse Drumming and Ventura Charter School for Arts and Global Education
- + The Vestry's leadership that our parish's mission may be accomplished. Our 2024 vestry members and officers are Greg Jackson (Senior Warden), Jordan Daniels (Junior Warden), Peter Anderson (Treasurer), Lori Burke (Clerk), Laura Andrews, Kathleen Crookston, Lisa Cross, Tim Helms, Pamela Price Klebaum, Sarah Lamola, Miles Sexton, Daniel Smithson, Susan Talmadge, Wendy VanHorn, and the Rev. Susan Bek (Rector).
- + U.S. Armed services personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home

### ***GIVE THANKS FOR:***

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles: *Hillsides-the Episcopal Home for Children, Pasadena; Neighborhood Youth Association, West LA.; Holy Family Services, Ventura County.*
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiauso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Unitarian/Universalist, Center for Spiritual Living, An Lac Mission (Buddhist), Mormon Church*

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

*All those we love but see no longer.*

*Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month but can be renewed if needed. Please contact the church office to add or extend a prayer request and to let us know how things are going.*

## **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff**

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector  
 The Rev. Canon Greg Larkin, Priest in Charge  
 The Rev. Vicki Mouradian, Priest in Charge for Pastoral Care  
 The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting  
 TBA, Parish Administrator  
 Drew Darby, Seminary Intern  
 Dr. Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister  
 Tara Eisenhauer, Choir Director/Communications Manager  
 Sara Edwards, Organist  
 Joseph Wareham, Sexton  
 Ana Barnaby Lima, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries



# St. Paul's Announcements August 25, 2024

Thank you for joining us today! Please contact the church office for more information. God bless you!

**We invite you to join us again next Sunday.**



## Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

Whether you're new, visiting or have been a member for years, we're so glad you joined us today. **A warm welcome to you!** Our Sunday services are available online and in-person. Please let us know if we can do anything to support you on your spiritual journey. We're always happy to hear from you!  
We invite you to come back soon.



This is a brief overview of our weekly announcements. To learn about everything going on at St. Paul's and to receive weekly encouragement and ways to build up spiritual strength, please see our E-newsletter. If you don't receive it, please let us know. We'd be happy to add you to the list! You can reach us by emailing [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)



We welcome the Rev. Canon Jerry Kahler as our Guest Preacher and Celebrate today as we celebrate the 55th Anniversary of his Ordination. Fr Kahler was Rector of Saint Paul's from 1998-2010. Please join us for a special Coffee Hour honoring Fr. Kahler following the service.



### Today is the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In this week's sermon we'll learn why, of all the choices you could make, you should choose to serve the Lord. We'll also enjoy inspiring scripture, beautiful music, and an uplifting message of hope and love. Come to church and get inspired!



### Join us for Coffee Hour

In-person worshippers are invited to join us in Kahler Hall (just down the stairs) for a cup of coffee, or tea and some refreshments. This gives us the chance to sit and chat with one another. In the church, we call this fellowship. It's one of our favorite parts of being on this journey of faith together.



*Are you new to St. Paul's or visiting us?*

### A warm welcome to you!

We're so glad you joined us today. We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Our ushers and greeters will be happy to do anything they can to make your time with us more comfortable and meaningful. Please introduce yourself to our clergy, they're looking forward to meeting you. We invite you to come back again soon.



### OUTREACH PROJECT



#### August - REACH for Laundry Love




We invite you to join in whatever way you can to support our current REACH project. Your prayers are welcome! Laundry Love works to build relationships by bringing laundry soap, snacks and conversation into local Laundromats, where guests typically can't afford the expense of doing their own laundry. REACH bags are available for your convenience – fill them with Laundry soap pods, dryer sheets, new socks and rolls of quarters. Your support is appreciated!



### Confirmation Classes are continuing!

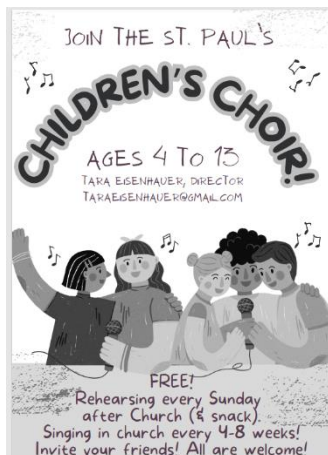
People who would like to learn more about the history, ministry and worship of the Episcopal Church are invited to join the Confirmation Class on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. We will gather in the library from 12:15 to 2:15 to learn about the church we love.

	<p><b>Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?</b>  Join us as we explore and appreciate God's creation. The next Spirituality in Nature Group activity is sunset beach time! Join us at Marina Park (address is 2950 Pierpont Boulevard in Ventura) on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:dan.wakelee@gmail.com">dan.wakelee@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Book Club – Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm on Zoom</b>  The First Monday Book Club is open to all. We chose two books to carry us through to the September meeting.. On September 2, we will discuss <i>The Guncle Abroad</i> by Steven Rowley. The author has a signature blend of humor and heart, with a beloved story about the complicated bonds of family, love, and what it takes to rediscover yourself, even at the ripe age of fifty. Zoom Information – Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1<sup>st</sup>monday</p>
	<p><i>Invite everyone you know – especially those who at some time attended school or church at St. Paul's...</i></p> <p><b>Homecoming Sunday - September 8<sup>th</sup></b>  Join us for our Fall kick-off as we celebrate the beginning of a new program year. It's time for the ministries that took some time off, or went on summer schedule, to be back in full swing again. We're encouraging everyone who's been away to come back and join in the celebration. Invite your friends, old and new, to join us too! We'd love to have everyone join us. All are welcome!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Service begins at 10:15am  <b>Bring a Friend and come join in the fun!</b></p>
	<p><b>No healing service for the months of July and August. We will start back in September.</b>  Our weekly Healing Prayer Service with Eucharist will on Thursdays in the church at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by Rev. Vicki. Please join us for a time of quiet, inspiration, and worship as we invite Christ into our lives for healing of body, mind, and soul.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Study</b> Our weekly Bible Study, led by Rev. Vicki, will also be on Thursdays in the Church Library at 11:15 a.m. We will be studying the upcoming readings for each Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary and the commentary, <i>Keeping Holy Time</i>, edited by Douglas E. Wingeier. Please join us for coffee and cookies, fellowship and discussion as we navigate the words of scripture. Please bring a Bible and if you have it, one with the NRSV translation. All are welcome!</p>
	<p><b>Summer Bible Study</b> Come get a sense of what it was like to be one of the earliest Christians as we study Paul's letters to the faithful at Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae, major cities at the heart of the Greco-Roman world. Our summer series meetings on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 will be focused on Bible study and discussion, with some prayer and fellowship before and after...and dessert! Children are most welcome. If you have any questions, feel free to <a href="mailto:drew.darby@seminary.edu">email Seminary Intern Drew Darby</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Friday Morning Women's Bible Study:</b> We are a small group of women from St. Paul's and the Ventura community that meet weekly on Zoom to study scripture and share fellowship. If you've been wanting to add bible study to your spiritual life, we'd love to have you join us. We plan to study <u><a href="https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/luke-in-the-land-bible-study-book-with-video-access-P005843027">Luke in the Land</a></u> as our next book, which will begin in late July/early August. <a href="https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/luke-in-the-land-bible-study-book-with-video-access-P005843027">https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/luke-in-the-land-bible-study-book-with-video-access-P005843027</a>The author, Kristi McClelland, is a speaker, teacher and college professor. Her focus is on bible study through a Middle Eastern lens. We have completed several of her other studies and thoroughly enjoyed them. She will be speaking at a conference in Yorba Linda on August 16-17; if you are interested in attending along with members, contact Suzanne.  <b>If you are interested in checking out the current study and or the group, please contact Suzanne McCombs (805-390-3909) for Zoom details and/or more information.</b></p>
	<p><b>Two invitations from the Men's Group.</b>  We hope that you can join us for one or both of these weekly activities:  <b>Tuesday Evening Bible Study</b> - We meet at 6 p.m. at Winchesters Grill on Main Street for dinner, fellowship and Bible study. We are starting a new study of the book of Galatians.  <b>Friday Morning Breakfast</b> - We meet at 7 a.m. at Black Bear Diner on Harbor Boulevard for breakfast, fellowship and a study of the lectionary reading appointed for the week.</p>

	<p><b>Going on Vacation?</b></p> <p>If you are on our regular schedule of Sunday volunteers (<i>Ushers, Servers, Chalice Bearers, Acolytes, Welcome Committee, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Lock Up Team, etc.</i>) and will be away on a Sunday when you're scheduled to serve, please try to trade with someone and let the church office know who to expect that Sunday. If you need our assistance, please let us know. Thank you so much for serving the church, and we wish you a wonderful vacation! Any questions, contact the office.</p>
 <p>This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page</p>	<p><i>"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7</i></p> <p><b>Thank you for your generosity!</b></p> <p>Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the "Give" button at office <a href="http://www.saintpaulsventura.org">www.saintpaulsventura.org</a> or use this QR code. Members give of their time through many ministries and share their talents through lots of volunteer opportunities. Please contact our clergy if you'd like to get involved in something new. Generosity involves the giving of time, talent and treasure. Thank you for all the ways you give of yourself! We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to share. Thank you!</p>
	<p><b>SUMMER SERVICES</b> will be powerful, uplifting, and run just over an hour. Join us for interesting lessons, moving sermons and great fellowship with friends, old and new. We are so blessed to live here! Come to church and still have time to hit the beach and enjoy some summer fun!</p> <p><b>FANS</b> have been installed along the outer aisle for your comfort. As things heat up in our warmer months, please feel free to turn them on. Check with those around you, perhaps the oscillating feature would be helpful. Be mindful of the needs of others. We encourage those who prefer to be away from the fans to sit toward the center of the church.</p>

**Please add these dates to your calendar and plan to join us.**

- Tues. 8/27 Summer Series Bible Study – 6:30 pm
- Wed. 8/28 Vestry Meeting – 6:30 pm in the Library
- Thurs. 8/29 Bible Study 11:15 AM
- Fri. 8/30 SING Event – Marina Park @ 6:30 pm
- Sun. 9/1 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – service at 10:15 am  
Confirmation class – 12:15 pm
- Tues. 9/3 Summer Series Bible Study – 6:30 pm – Last meeting!
- Thurs. 9/5 Bible Study 11:15 AM
- Sun. 9/8 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost and Homecoming Sunday – service at 10:15 am  
Confirmation class – 12:15 pm



Come one, Come all! We are reviving the Children's Choir at St. Paul's!  
Rehearsals will start September 22nd, after church/snack!

There is no charge for children to participate (thanks, St. Paul's!)  
We will rehearse every Sunday (minus breaks and summers).  
Children are asked to participate weekly.

From Choir Director Tara Eisenhauer "What is not to love about a children's choir? Hearing the sweet voices in our services will surely bring us closer to God and the inner child God asks us to be. We hope this new ministry will bring light and hope to the lives of these children as well as our congregation and community. We will develop many skills such as reading music, sight singing, ear training, vocal technique and more. And don't forget about the people skills: working as a team for a common outcome, responsibility, diligent practice, building character, and showing love and support for our neighbor. We will sing in church when our songs are ready; we can't wait to minister in our services!"

## A Peek at the life of the Rev. Canon Jerome Kahler

Parish life is full of challenges and opportunities. Upon arrival at St. Paul's for the opening of the parish day school year in September 1988, my first challenge was apparent. My predecessor had been indicted on seven counts of child molestation. After a monthlong October trial he was convicted on all counts. Not the most auspicious beginning for a new ministry. Church attendance and day school enrollment had diminished by half with revenue shadowing the decline. Yet with church leaders like Harry Dickinson and the vestry, principal Linda Klinger and her school board, disaster was averted and resolved in a few years. Thus began a new era with the adoption of policies and procedures to protect children and vulnerable adults, training sessions, and attention to safety. The will to grow and thrive was evident.

Thrive we did. Church membership and attendance increased. Sunday School numbers grew. With our classical pipe organ, able organist and choir master, Al Campbell, the music program continued to grow. The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) engaged in fundraising for special activities (that was the age of the urchins and bazaars). The altar and flower guilds were strong and vibrant. Bible studies, prayer groups, men's and youth activities flourished. Family to Family, a weekly free meal on the Avenue for the homeless (a program of Project Understanding) was actively supported. AA and NA groups, the local chapter of the National Alliance

for Mental Illness, and our parish sponsored Boy Scout troop met in the parish hall.

In 1990 the Memorial Garden providing a final resting place for the saints was dedicated. During the decade the former rectory was refurbished to provide much needed meeting rooms and day school classrooms. It was renamed the Gooden Center in honor of the former Suffragan Bishop Robert Gooden who had been vicar of St. Paul's, 1902-1906. Late in the 1990s the parish hall patio was reconfigured to provide an ADA access ramp to the church and an enlarged upper plaza with its labyrinth to increase gathering space for the congregation and the day school.

By the early 1990s the day school returned to maximum numbers offering a complete K-8 program with art, music, science, Spanish, current computer technology, daily physical education, and a fine library and regular librarian. All was well until in 2000 the state instituted maximum enrollment of 20 students per classroom in K-3 grades in public schools. St. Paul's historic 20 student K-3 class size was no longer the advantage parents wanted for their child's early education. A private school education was considered an unaffordable luxury. As the decade progressed, rising costs and increasing requests for financial aid, required the unavoidable closure of the day school in 2009.

The energies of the congregation turned to our involvement in interfaith efforts to aid the homeless in Ventura. Family to Family continued to serve meals weekly. St. Paul's opened our parking lot as a monitored site for a city approved overnight in-vehicle safe sleep program. Mission outreach involved our members traveling to Ghana, West Africa, to provide local tribes with potable water solutions.

I retired December 31, 2010. Beth and I felt free to travel. We had been on a couple of Benedictine Pilgrimages in England and Wales. So we expanded our horizons to Europe. In 2012 I joined the board of the Abundant Table, a small nonprofit organic farm training interns and offering farm education in public schools. For ten years I was the volunteer office manager and general factotum. In 2013 Beth and I purchased a floor loom on which we learned to weave. Ever since I'm regularly involved in weeding, reading and weaving. From time to time I take Sunday services, but mostly I enjoy worshipping with Beth in the pew.

